RESEARCH and analyses

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COMPARATIVE STUDIES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Canada Graduate Scholarships master's applicants whose university of affiliation is located in Québec accounted on average for **27%** of the total number of applications received for 2004 to 2006.
- This proportion is slightly lower than Québec's share of master's students in the health field, namely, in the vicinity of **30%**.
- Between 2004 and 2006, the number of awards per year for Canada as a whole more than doubled, rising from **86** to **192**.
- At the same time, the number of applications received held relatively steady, moving from **311** in 2004 to **340** in 2006.
- Consequently, the overall success rate posted a marked increase (from **28%** to **57%**). In Québec, the success rate climbed from **32%** to **59%**.
- Québec and Alberta were the only provinces to have maintained a success rate **higher** than the national average in each of the first three years of the program's existence.

Trends in the distribution of applications and awards for the Canada Graduate Scholarships program, master's level, from 2004 to 2006

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Within the Canadian federation, Québec is renowned for the excellence of its research centres, groups and networks and for the competitiveness of their researchers in the health field. Québec researchers and students are usually considered to score excellent results at federal granting agency competitions. This study, which is part of a series of studies on CIHR scholarship and fellowship programs, presents data on the distribution of the number of applications received, applications recommended for award, and awards under the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program, managed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Based on the applicants' university of affiliation, the study makes it possible to measure the capability of Québec research institutions to attract federal merit scholarship awardees in the health field at the master's level and to compare Québec's performance in this respect with that of other Canadian provinces.

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MAIN RESULTS (CGM)

Québec is underrepresented in terms of the number of applications received:

- Since the creation of the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program, Québec has accounted for approximately 27% of the number of applications received.
- This proportion is below its share of master's health program students in Canada, which was 31% in 1999-2000 and 30% in 2003-2004.
- It would appear that applicants from Québec are sorely underrepresented. In 2006, only 94 applications received concerned an institution located in Québec.
- By way of comparison, on average, the FRSQ receives 268 applications per year for its master's scholarship program.

However, the quality of applications for Québec institutions is undisputed:

- Rates of recommendation are very nearly identical from province to province and show little change over time, but success rates are a different matter.
- Applicants whose institution of affiliation is located in Québec obtained success rates above the national average in each of the last three year of the period concerned. Québec and Alberta are the only provinces to have achieved such results.
- Québec's lead over the national average between 2004 and 2006 was nearly 5 percentage points on average.

Québec's share of awards is at par with its share of students, but is not increasing as quickly as elsewhere in Canada:

- Between 2004 and 2006, the number of awards in Canada went from 86 to 192 (a 123% increase).
- For Ontario, this figure rose from 31 to 70 (up by 125%), for Alberta, from 11 to 24 (up by 118%) and for British Columbia, from 8 to 23 (up by 188%). Québec also enjoyed an increase (from 28 to 55), but only of 96%.
- Despite success levels that are above the national average, Québec's relative share is necessarily declining because the number of awards for institutions located in Québec is not increasing as quickly as in the other provinces.
- Although applicants whose institution of affiliation is located in Québec on average represented 30% of awards in 2004, 2005 and 2006, this proportion inched down yearly and was 28.6% in 2006.

TABLE 1 – Applications received (CGM)

	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED					
	2004		2005		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
British Columbia	31	10.0	39	12.2	38	11.2
Alberta	35	11.3	34	10.7	41	12.1
Ontario	124	39.9	136	42.6	139	40.9
Québec	**87**	**28.0**	**80**	**25.1**	**94**	**27.6**
Other	34	10.9	30	9.4	28	8.2
Total	**311**	**100.0**	**319**	**100.0**	**340**	**100.0**

FIGURE 1 – Distribution of applications received (CGM)

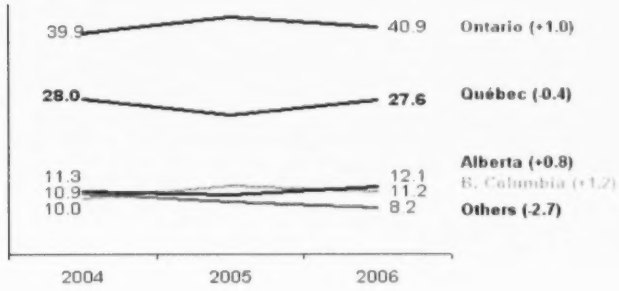


TABLE 2 – Applications recommended for award (CGM)

	APPLICATIONS RECOMMENDED FOR AWARD					
	2004		2005		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
British Columbia	31	10.3	38	12.0	37	11.1
Alberta	33	11.0	33	10.4	40	12.0
Ontario	118	39.2	129	40.8	132	39.8
Québec	**85**	**28.2**	**78**	**24.7**	**91**	**27.4**
Other	34	11.3	38	12.0	32	9.6
Total	**301**	**100.0**	**316**	**100.0**	**332**	**100.0**

TABLE 3 – Rates of recommendation (CGM)

	RATES OF RECOMMENDATION (Applications recommended for award/ Applications received)		
	2004	2005	2006
British Columbia	100.0%	97.4%	97.4%
Alberta	94.3%	97.1%	97.6%
Ontario	95.2%	94.9%	95.0%
Québec	**97.7%**	**97.5%**	**96.8%**
Other	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Canadian average	**96.8%**	**99.1%**	**97.6%**

Distribution of applications received

Since introduction three years ago of the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program, the number of applications received has increased slightly, going from 311 in 2004 to 340 in 2006 (Table 1). During this period, the number of applicants whose institution of affiliation is located in Québec was 27% on average, which is below its relative share (roughly 30%) of master's students in the health field in Canada.

Institutions located in Ontario (with an average of 41% of applications received), as well as those in British Columbia and Alberta (with an average 11% of applications received respectively), recorded averages above their relative share of master's students in the health field in Canada (39% for Ontario, 10% for British Columbia and 8% for Alberta).

Distribution of applications recommended for award

As is the case with most merit scholarship competitions, recommendation rates in the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program are very high. For competitions held in 2004, 2005 and 2006, they fluctuated between 94% and 100% (Table 3).

Québec does not particularly stand out from the other provinces in terms of changes in its rates of recommendation. During the period studied, these rates varied by ±1.5 points in relation to the average rate of recommendation for the whole country (Table 3).

TABLE 4 – Awards (CGM)

	AWARDS					
	2004		2005		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
British Columbia	8	9.3	15	11.9	23	12.0
Alberta	11	12.8	16	12.7	24	12.5
Ontario	31	36.0	46	36.5	70	36.5
Québec	**28**	**32.6**	**38**	**30.2**	**55**	**28.6**
Other	8	9.3	11	8.7	20	10.4
Total	**86**	**100.0**	**126**	**100.0**	**192**	**100.0**

FIGURE 2 – Distribution of awards (CGM)

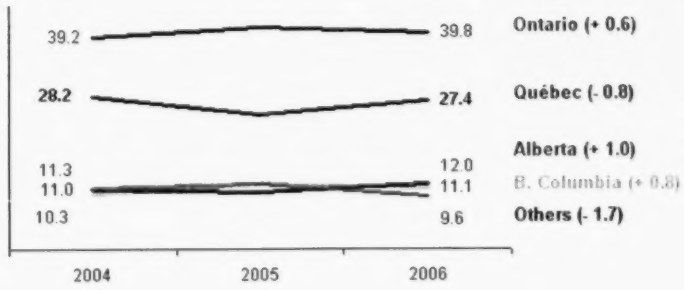
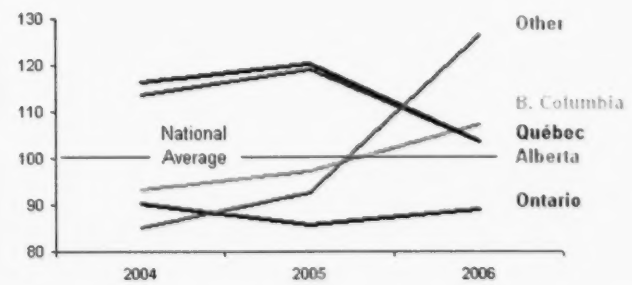


TABLE 5 – Success rates (CGM)

	SUCCESS RATES (Awards/Applications received)		
	2004	2005	2006
British Columbia	25.8%	38.5%	60.5%
Alberta	31.4%	47.1%	58.5%
Ontario	25.0%	33.8%	50.4%
Québec	**32.2%**	**47.5%**	**58.5%**
Other	23.5%	36.7%	71.4%
Canadian average	**27.7%**	**39.5 %**	**56.5%**

FIGURE 3 – Success rates – Difference with the national average, base 100 (CGM)



Distribution of awards

In the last three years, 404 new scholarships were granted under the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program, with 121 awarded to applicants whose institution of affiliation is located in Québec, or 30% of all awards (Table 4). Québec's share of awards is therefore identical to its share of master's students in the health field in Canada.

Given that the number of applications received basically remained steady for the last three years of the period concerned, while the number of awards more than doubled, competition success rates increased sizably during the period studied. The success rate at the national level therefore climbed from 28% in 2004 to 57% in 2006 (Table 5).

Québec and Alberta were the only provinces to maintain a success rate that outstripped the national average in each of the first three years of the program's existence. On average, Québec's success rate was 5 points above the national average during this period. However, it should be noted that the narrowest national average gap for Québec occurred in 2006, when its success rate was 58.5% compared with 56.5 % for all of Canada.

Among the four provinces studied, Québec had the highest success rate in 2004 and 2005, and the second highest in 2006, neck-and-neck with Alberta (Table 5). Figure 3 presents annual success rate differences for all of Canada and for the provinces, converted to a 100% basis.

Methodological notes

Data concerning the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGM) program were provided by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).They refer to the province in which the institution of affiliation (the institution to which the scholarship amount will be issued) is located. The "Other" category contains data for the institutions located in Canadian provinces for which no specific data were presented, and data for institutions located outside of Canada, which are negligible in the case of the master's scholarship program. Given the lack of volume, the data provided by CIHR for this category may sometimes contain numbers for applications recommended for award higher than the number of applications received.

The data on master's students in the health field were provided by the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation. They comprise data for 2003-2004 for full-time students in the following university programs: 1) health- and clinical science-related professions; 2) residency programs in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine (even though veterinary medicine cannot be excluded from the category of residency programs, it accounts for a very small proportion thereof); 3) psychology; and 4) biological and biomedical sciences.